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the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Phoenix; with automobile trip to the Roosevelt Dam, Ash Fork, eastern Colorado and Kansas, Kansas City; Oct. 8-16, St. Louis, leaving in the night for Memphis, boat excursion to Helena, by rail to Birmingham, Chattanooga with ascent of Lookout Mountain, Asheville, Charlottesville, visiting the University of Virginia; four days in Washington, with excursion to the Great Falls of the Potomac as guests of the National Geographic Society, visits to scientific bureaus, institutions, etc.; Oct. 17, arrive in New York in the morning, meeting in the afternoon, reception in the evening; Oct. 18, meeting in the afternoon, dinner in the evening.

At various points along the route the excursionists are the guests of Boards of Trade or other public bodies, at dinners, receptions and excursions. Most of the European visitors will leave New York for home on the steamships of Saturday Oct. 19.

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## THE 1910 CENSUS OF THE POPULATION OF CHINA

BY

W. W. ROCKHILL\*

The problem of the population of the world is still far from being reliably solved, and the determination of the approximate population of China is such an important factor in this problem that we must welcome the appearance of the first official Chinese attempt at a real enumeration of the population of the Empire, the results of which were published in February, 1911, in the *Government Gazette*, or *Chêng-chih-kuan-pao*, of Peking. This document, though showing complete ignorance of the methods now nearly universally followed in vital statistical reports, throws considerable light on the question of China's population, and seems entitled to more confidence than the enumerations which have heretofore appeared.

In 1908, when the Empress Dowager Tzu'u-hsi took the momentous step of promising the people a representative government, the need of a census became at once felt as it probably never had been before. When the Government decided upon convening Provincial Deliberative Assemblies it was found necessary to state in the Regulations governing the subject and approved by the Throne on July 22, 1908, that "the representation in the Provincial Deliberative

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\* Reprinted from *T'oung Pao*, Vol. 13, 1912, No. 1, pp. 117-125, Leyden.

Assemblies would best of all be arranged on a strict basis of population, but as China has not yet made a census and to begin making one now would consume too much time, the statistics of the literary examinations and the tax rolls have been taken as a basis for reckoning the number of Assembly members to assign to each province."

The necessity of making a census remained, however, of vital importance; the above makeshift could not be tolerated for long. In an Imperial Edict of Aug. 27, 1908, which laid down a detailed programme of measures to be carried through as indispensable prerequisites to the proclaiming of the promised Constitution in 1917, it was prescribed that in 1909 the Ministry of the Interior, with the assistance of Viceroys and Governors, was to begin taking a census by households (as had heretofore been done), and report the results to Peking in 1910. In 1911 a further census (by heads) was to be made and reported to the Government in 1912.

On the 27th February, 1911, the Ministry of the Interior reported to the Throne the first results, which were not as complete as it had been hoped they would be, for certain returns had not yet reached Peking at the time the report was made. This enumeration is the basis of the present enquiry.

The report is divided into two parts: in the first the population by "households," of which it distinguishes two kinds, "principal households" and "sub-tenant households,"\* is given not only for each "whole province" separately, but in the case of certain organizations, such as the Banner Corps, the Metropolitan District (Shun-t'ien-fu), the city of Peking, and the Manchu garrisons in various cities of the Empire, the number of families composing them is also given. The second and more fragmentary part of the report on the population is evidently the early returns of the second census to be made in 1912, and complementary to that by households. It is to give (1) the number of the population by heads of adults, (2) of school children (6 to 16 years of age), and (3) of "able-bodied men," fit for military service (probably from 16 to 45 years of age), for the same divisions as used in the first part of the report. Although this second part is but a fragment, it enables us to establish the approximate numeric value of the average household (for we cannot ascertain the exact difference between a *chên* and a *fu* household, though the latter must unquestionably be smaller than the former) in a number of provinces and localities scattered over

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\* The only Chinese census prior to that of 1910, in which households are divided into two classes, *chên hu* and *fu hu*, is that made by order of the Ministry of the Interior of the population of Peking, and published in the *Chên-chih-kuan-pao* of Sept. 1, 1908.

the Empire, and by applying these averages to the contiguous provinces or smaller divisions of the Empire, and to those among them which are known to be under similar geographic and climatic conditions, to arrive at probably a closer approximation of the population of the Empire than it has been possible to do with the data heretofore available.\* These ascertained averages of the numerical value of the household (exclusive of infants below 6 years of age) are the following:

|                                                  |               |           |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Chih-li                                          | province..... | 5.5 heads |
| Shan-hsi                                         | " .....       | 4.2 "     |
| Che-kiang                                        | " .....       | 3.6 "     |
| Ssü-ch'uan                                       | " .....       | 4.0 "     |
| Kuei-chou                                        | " .....       | 5.2 "     |
| Ki-lin                                           | " .....       | 7.2 "     |
| Hei-lung-kiang                                   | " .....       | 3.1 "     |
| Peking City                                      | .....         | 5.8 "     |
| Shun-t'ien Prefecture (exclusive of Peking)..... |               | 5.8 "     |
| Manchu garrison of Canton .....                  |               | 4.7 "     |
| District of Kobdo .....                          |               | 3.9 "     |

The mean average of the above is 4.8; this figure has been used in calculating the number of people in provinces to which none of the other averages could be properly applied. As regards the population of infants below 6 years of age, it has been assumed that the annual birth-rate in China cannot possibly exceed 1/100 of the total population, possibly less, in view of the apparent great numerical inferiority of females, and that the infantile death-rate must be as high, if not higher, than in those provinces of India about which we have trustworthy data—say between 40 and 45 per 1,000. On the basis of the population as furnished by the census we may assume that the infants under 6 years number between nine and ten millions.

As regards the returns for the provinces of Ssu-ch'uan and Shan-hsi, they are incomplete, covering only 125 districts in the case of the former, and 87 in the case of the latter. I have accepted as correct the figures for the population of Ssu-ch'uan published in the *North China Daily News* of Shanghai on March 11, 1911, which says, on the authority of a Chinese newspaper whose name it does not mention, that Chao Erh-sün, Viceroy of Ssu-ch'uan, had re-

\* The figures of population by heads are the totals of adult males and females plus the school children; the "able-bodied men" are not counted as they must be included in the enumeration by male adults.

† A foreign physician of Peking with a very large Chinese practice told me a few years ago that, after several years of careful enquiry, he had reached the conclusion that the death-rate of infants in Peking was considerably over 50 per cent. of the births.

ported to Peking that his province contained 9,205,200 families of 50,217,000 adults, 4,288,600 school children, and 8,669,000 "able-bodied men"—or 54,505,600 persons—infants excluded.

In the case of Shan-hsi I have found nothing better than to adhere to the total for that province given in my earlier study of the subject in 1905\*, that is to say 10,791,000, and have, therefore, added a million to the recorded figure of the present census.

The population of the Empire (exclusive of Mongolia and Tibet), computed with the present available data and in the manner above explained, would appear to be, in round numbers, 325,000,000, as is shown in detail in Table 1 in which the figures obtained are compared with those reached by me in my earlier study of the question and there given as for the year 1885.

The present census supplies us with the number of people enrolled in the Manchu banner organization; it is 1,380,440 adults. If to this number we add the garrisons of Nan-king (Kiang-su), Chin-chou (Hu-pei), and Hang-chou (Ché-kiang), which are not included in the list, and which may roughly be put down at 5,500 families, or about 30,000 souls, infants included, and if we further add 40,000 infants to the recorded enumerated Manchu population, we reach a general total for the Manchu banners of 1,500,000 in round numbers.

The data now furnished us disclose an interesting and very important fact, if it should be corroborated hereafter; wherever the proportions of the sexes have been recorded the disparity in numbers is very great, males being largely in excess. In a few cases this excess of the male population may be explained by a recent influx of emigrants from other provinces of the Empire, as in the case of the two Manchurian provinces of Ki-lin and Hei-lung-kiang, or by the population being largely composed of troops, as in the case of Kobdo, or again by the locality in question being, as Peking, a great commercial center; but in others, and they are the more numerous, the disparity can only be explained by natural causes and conditions.†

Incomplete though the enumeration of "able-bodied" men is in the present report, it is of great interest to us, as it furnishes some idea of the relative proportion of this class to the whole male population. We are able to establish this percentage in the case of seven provinces; the mean average for this class in them is 40.20 per cent.

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\* An inquiry into the Population of China. *Smithsonian Report* for 1904, pp. 659-678, Washington, 1905.

† Mr. Rockhill gives the divergencies in the sexes as recorded in the returns now supplied in Table II, which is not reproduced here.

of the total male population. In Japan in 1898, the latest year for which I have authentic data, the males subject to conscription, 18 to 41 years of age, formed 36 per cent. of the male population.\*

We are furthermore enabled to gather some approximate idea of the proportion of children under sixteen to the total male population in at least seven provinces of the Empire, the same for which we have the population of able-bodied men.† In Japan the population below 15 forms about 33 per cent. of the total population; in the seven Chinese provinces for which we have data, the number of children from 6 to 16 varies from 6.22 to 11.86 in every hundred adults. If to this we add the children below 6, which we have been led to believe form about 3 per cent. of the population, we have a percentage of from 9.22 to 14.86 per cent. We must, of course, only accept these figures for China as interesting, but not well-authenticated data.

As regards the population of the city of Peking, the census taken in 1908 by the Ministry of Interior after the division of the city into the present 23 police districts, gave the numbers as 69,579 "principal households" and 56,429 "sub-tenant households"; 79,009 in the Tartar or Inner City, and 46,999 in the Chinese or Outer City. Computed on the basis of 5.8 heads to the family, as supplied us by the present census, we find that in 1908 the population of the capital (exclusive, of course, of infants) was 730,846, of which 458,252 were in the Tartar city and 272,594 in the Chinese. The present census gives Peking a total population of 805,110. In 1908 the number of children attending school in Peking was 16,282 boys and 771 girls. In 1910 the children of school age in Peking numbered 47,653.

The returns before us do not supply sufficient figures for computing the population of Mongolia, they only cover the Jehol district and the Ch'ahar tribe—the *yu-mu* or "nomadic herdmen" of Southern Mongolia from the Great Wall to Alashan and as far north as Outer Mongolia; we are told that they number 348,000 adults. The total Mongol population of the Empire is usually estimated as about a million and three-quarters.

Although the new information furnished us by the census of 1910 is insufficient to base any conclusions on, it tends, at all events, to confirm the opinion I had reached in my earlier study of the question that the population of the Empire is much smaller than we have been

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\* The various percentages of able-bodied male adults in China, as shown by the present returns, are given by the author in detail in Table III.

† These percentages are given in detail in Table IV.

led to believe, and that in the last century it has been increasing very slowly, if at all.\*

TABLE I.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CHINA 1910.

| PROVINCE                               | POPULATION 1910 | POPULATION 1885 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chih-li .....                          | 22,970,654      | 17,937,005      |
| Shan-hsi .....                         | 9,422,871       | 10,791,341      |
| Shen-hsi .....                         | 6,726,064       | 3,276,967       |
| Kan-su .....                           | 3,807,883       | 5,411,188       |
| Shan-tung .....                        | 25,813,685      | 36,545,704      |
| Ho-nan .....                           | 22,375,516      | 22,117,036      |
| Hu-pei .....                           | 21,256,144      | 33,600,492      |
| Ssu-ch'uan .....                       | 54,505,600      | 71,073,730      |
| Kiang-su (including Kiang-ning).....   | 15,379,042      | 21,259,989      |
| An-hui .....                           | 14,077,683      | 20,596,988      |
| Kiang-hsi .....                        | 16,254,374      | 24,541,406      |
| Hu-nan .....                           | 20,583,187      | 21,005,171      |
| Kuei-chou .....                        | 9,266,914       | 7,669,181       |
| Yün-nan .....                          | 8,049,672       | 11,721,576      |
| Chê-kiang .....                        | 13,942,655      | 11,684,348      |
| Fu-kien .....                          | 8,556,678       | 23,502,794      |
| Kuang-tung .....                       | 23,696,366      | 29,740,055      |
| Kuang-hsi .....                        | 5,426,356       | 5,151,327       |
| MANCHURIA.                             |                 |                 |
| Fêng-t'ien .....                       | 5,830,819       | ....            |
| Ki-lin .....                           | 5,349,287       | ....            |
| Hei-lung-kiang .....                   | 1,562,254       | ....            |
| TURKESTAN.                             |                 |                 |
| Hsin-kiang (whole province) .....      | 1,768,560       | ....            |
| TIBETAN MARCHES.                       |                 |                 |
| Marches of Ssu-ch'uan and Yün-nan..... | 195,496         | ....            |
| TOTAL .....                            | 316,817,750     | 377,636,198     |
| <i>Infants under 6</i> .....           | 9,000,000 (?)   | ....            |
| Mongolia .....                         | 1,800,000 (?)   | ....            |
| Tibet .....                            | 2,000,000 (?)   | ....            |
| TOTAL .....                            | 329,617,750     |                 |

\* See Walter Francis Willcox. The Expansion of Europe in its influence on population, 1906, pp. 55-57, 66-70. Reprinted from *Studies in Philosophy and Psychology*, a commemorative volume dedicated to Prof. Charles E. Garman of Amherst College.